

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02972 280529Z

15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 L-03 XMB-02

FRB-03 /045 W

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R 280442Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2199

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2972

FOR: EA/TB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, EAID, ELAR, BM

SUBJ: AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP -- REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: RANGOON 2971

1. IN CONNECTION WITH SEPTEMBER 3 U LWIN BRIEFING, TWO POINTS OF INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE AMBASSADOR.

A. HOW DOES BURMA RANK, IN WORLD AND IN SEA, IN PER CAPITA AID RECEIVED? THE CLOSEST APPROXIMATION OF THE ACTUAL TRANSFER OF RESOURCES WE FIND IS THE FIGURE OF \$16 MILLION (SDR 13.8 MILLION) UNDER GRANTS IN THE IMF BOP CALCULATION FOR 1975. THIS COMES TO ROUGHLY \$.50 PER HEAD.

B. IS THE USG INTERESTED IN PL-480 SALES OF EDIBLE OIL? CHRISTIAN LA DONNE HAS TWICE RAISED WITH US THE POSSIBILITY OF HELPING THE BURMESE OUT WITH PEANUT OIL (READ: ANY SUITABLE COOKING OIL). HE MENTIONED THE SPECIFIC FIGURE OF \$2 MILLION WORTH. THIS IS A KEY COMMODITY IN THE LOCAL COST OF LIVING AND THE INFUSION OF THIS AMOUNT MIGHT WELL FORCE THE SPECULATORS TO BRING WHAT THEY HAVE OUT OF THE GODOWNS AND LOWER THE PRICE. WE SUSPECT THAT LA DONNE IS FRONTING FOR THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING IN THIS CASE AND THE AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02972 280529Z

WITH SOME AUTHORITY IF THE MATTER IS RAISED ON SEPTEMBER 3.

WE ASSUME THAT GRANT AID IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT WONDER
IF THERE IS A SUFFICIENT SURPLUS IN THE U.S. TO MAKE THE
PL-480 APPROACH ATTRACTIVE.
OSBORN

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NNN

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